CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER

USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

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WEATHER

A high pressure ridge over the west coast brought California dry and mild weather at the start of the week. The ridge flattened out by Tuesday and allowed a minor Pacific storm system to brush the northern half of the State. This system brought rain and cooler temperatures to the north coast and to the northern Sacramento Valley and rain and snow to the northern mountains. Southern California remained dry, although the system did cause an onshore flow there which cooled temperatures a few degrees. By Wednesday, high pressure began to rebuild over the State. This brought dry conditions to Northern California, but moisture trapped in the Central Valley resulted in widespread fog, especially in the San Joaquin Valley. The fog kept temperatures cool in the valley. Southern California had a return of offshore flow, which brought sunny and warm conditions to the southland. Late Friday, a larger Pacific frontal system moved across the State, this time even reaching Southern California by Saturday, and bringing widespread rain and mountain snow to the entire length of the State. By Sunday, this system had moved out, and high pressure again rebuilt and brought clearing skies to California. The cool airmass, however, kept temperatures on the chilly side.

FIELD CROPS

Small grains appeared in very good condition, except in places where water was still standing. In Tulare County, field work resumed in sandier soils, while heavier soils remained too wet to work. The unseasonably warm temperatures were beneficial to the growth of winter forages. Winter herbicide applications continued as weather permitted. Winter **wheat** fields continued to grow well with the rain showers and warm temperatures. Young **sugar beet** plants continued to grow well in Fresno County, and many growers had crews thinning the young fields. In Northern California, some **oat** fields were turning yellow due to the heavy rains and overcast weather. **Sweet potato** hotbed field fumigations continued.

FRUIT CROPS

Concern continued regarding the unseasonably warm weather this winter. The warm temperatures have been detrimental to the accumulation of chilling hours in dormant trees and have caused fruit trees in some areas to begin blooming. Buds began to swell in many early tree fruit varieties, and there was an increase in the use of pre-emergents and dormant spraying in many fruit orchards. Several growers continued to prune trees and apply fertilizer. Crews were pruning, tying canes, applying herbicides, and replacing stakes and trellis wires in **grape** vineyards. Older vines and trees were removed in order to plant new vines and trees. Dormant applications for insect control continued as conditions allowed in many stone fruit orchards. Recent rains and fog caused problems with the scheduling of citrus harvest. Navel **orange** harvest continued as the field conditions allowed. Problems with puff and crease increased grade-out at packing houses. **Lemon** harvest gained momentum, and **pummelo**, **mandarin**, and **tangerine** harvests continued. Approximately one-third of the mandarin crop in Yuba County was lost from the early-January flooding, since growers will not market any fruit that the flood water covered. Blood orange harvest increased. Juice processing plants continued to run at full capacity, due to the high volume of grade-outs. **Olive** orchards continued to be pruned with brush shredding resuming as the fields dry out.

NUT CROPS

Bee hives were placed in **almond** orchards. Dormant season field work continued in nut orchards as field conditions permitted. There were more losses reported in several almond tree orchards due to the wet conditions, and crews were seen cutting up the downed trees for firewood.

VEGETABLE CROPS

In some areas, conditions were still too wet for field work. Spring **broccoli**, **onion**, **garlic**, and **lettuce** plantings showed vigorous growth after recent rains. Broccoli harvest was ongoing in some areas with reports of excellent yields. Weeding and thinning of lettuce and onion fields continued. Lygus bugs and mildew continued to threaten some of the lettuce fields in the San Joaquin Valley. Soil injections and sprinklers were used to apply fumigants to **tomato** fields. **Radicchio** harvest continued. Cool season Asian vegetables such as **bok choy**, **gai choy**, and **sugar pea leaf** were harvested.

LIVESTOCK

Winter foothill pastures continued to be in very good condition. Ample soil moisture and mild temperatures boosted grass growth. Supplemental feeding of cattle was limited to a few areas. Some ranchers were finishing taking delivery of stocker cattle, including contracted cattle from out-of-State. Some ranches were full stocked. Feeder cattle and lambs were being shuffled between old alfalfa fields and Sudan grass fields in the Imperial Valley. In Central California, ewes with lambs were grazing in alfalfa fields and retired broccoli fields. Dairies in the central and northern areas were still muddy from recent rains.

This report is available the first workday of the week after 1:00 PDT at ***www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm***.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 01/15/06

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 01/15/06	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 01/15/06	January 1 - 01/15/06	Week Ending 01/15/06	July 1 - 01/15/06	July 1 - 01/15/06	July 1 - June 30
	- - Degrees Fahrenheit - -				- - Number - -		- - Inches - -			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	48	0	57	36	0	0	3.90	34.85	18.78	37.53
Ukiah	48	1	59	32	0	0	1.62	24.63	18.35	37.96
Santa Rosa	50	2	63	32	0	0	1.10	23.81	14.33	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	52	2	65	41	0	0	0.65	13.49	9.06	19.70
San Jose	52	2	68	38	0	0	0.77	8.87	6.49	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	0.00	6.46	14.21
Salinas AP	51	0	66	36	0	0	0.75	5.06	5.44	12.44
Monterey FAA	52	0	69	39	0	0	0.53	5.53	7.37	18.72
King City	51	2	72	33	0	0	0.60	5.69	4.79	11.44
Paso Robles AP	49	2	65	32	0	0	0.22	6.76	5.21	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	46	1	58	30	0	0	2.35	25.53	14.90	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	47	1	58	33	0	0	1.40	16.42	11.20	22.29
Chico AFS	48	3	58	30	0	0	1.32	16.20	11.81	26.32
Marysville	48	2	57	34	0	0	0.49	12.23	10.15	21.04
Sacramento AP	48	2	58	34	0	0	0.50	12.49	7.96	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	49	4	60	35	0	0	0.61	7.57	6.17	13.95
Fresno	50	3	68	37	0	0	0.17	5.52	4.48	10.60
Bakersfield	50	2	68	36	0	0	0.01	2.54	2.54	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	52	0	71	35	0	0	0.22	8.48	5.32	12.36
Santa Barbara	52	0	70	38	0	0	0.13	7.60	6.95	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	31	0	0.00	0.00	6.04	14.38
Los Angeles	58	-1	74	43	22	0	0.10	4.95	5.57	14.77
Riverside	58	4	80	39	26	0	0.00	2.14	4.06	9.58
San Diego AP	58	0	76	47	14	0	0.00	1.43	4.33	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	34	-3	52	18	0	0	0.04	6.89	2.33	5.37
Lancaster	44	0	65	24	0	0	0.01	3.63	3.26	6.92
Daggett AP	49	0	68	30	0	0	0.00	0.84	2.39	3.93
Thermal AP	55	1	76	31	8	0	0.00	2.08	2.09	3.16
Blythe	55	1	76	31	9	0	0.00	2.20	2.69	3.60
Imperial	56	0	75	34	5	0	0.00	1.40	1.97	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	35	5	54	14	0	0	0.13	7.38	5.49	12.01
Mt. Shasta	37	2	49	25	0	0	1.93	28.80	18.30	37.02
Blue Canyon	39	0	53	24	0	0	2.71	40.22	31.10	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	0.91	17.27	37.05

Normal is defined as average over the 30-year period 1961 through 1990. Dashes (- -) in Average Week Ending and Departure from Normal columns mean less than five days reporting, while in High and Low columns mean no days reporting.

Weekly summary provided by the Western Regional Climate Center with data reported by the National Weather Service. When data are quality controlled by the National Climatic Data Center, the accumulated growing degree day and precipitation values are updated.